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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Free Territory of Trieste

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 31 JAN 50

SUBJECT Rasa Coal Mines

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1. Only about 10 percent of Rasa miners today are prewar employees. The vast majority of miners now employed are Macedonians, although a few Italians were employed in 1947 and several German technicians have been added. Several groups of forced laborers are also in the mines, under the strict guard of the Difesa Popolare, especially in the port areas. In all, the Rasa mines now employ about 4,000 workers compared to nearly 10,000 before the war.

2. The Slovene Littoral mine, Pod Labin, south of Labin, and the Strmac mine are nearly exhausted. At Pican, a new mine has been opened but is not producing as yet owing to the lack of competent technicians to direct the project. Several Yugoslav mining engineers were sent to this mine about 1 December 1949, but their knowledge of coal mining was so limited that they contributed little.

3. Working conditions and food for the miners are constantly being improved, but many necessities are still lacking. There is a high rate of tuberculosis, especially among the young miners, many of whom have to be hospitalized after only a few months work. Two doctors are stationed at the mines in Rasa, one in Labin and one at the Slovene Littoral pits.

4. The Circondario Comitati Popolari (Regional People's Committee) has received orders to organize voluntary work brigades of young men from lower Istria who will be transported to the mines by truck to work over the weekends.

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
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